

Dump the requirement for consumers to obtain waivers from local TV stations for viewing non-local affiliates' satellite programming; let satellite companies compete directly with cable, and put the choices in the hands of the consumer, not the local TV stations. Current FCC rules that do not allow satellite TV subscribers to view available non-local national networks violates the consumers' right of FREEDOM OF CHOICE, especially for those in rural areas without cable. These same rules don't apply to consumers of newspapers, radio, commercial products, etc. A consumer is not restricted to just reading local papers, listening to local radio stations or buying cars locally, for example. Forcing satellite TV consumers to watch local programming via ancient antenna technology and with video of LESSER QUALITY than satellite broadcasts to "protect" local stations is not in the consumers' best interest. These protective rules are unfair and the local networks hide behind them leaving the consumer with no recourse in viewing (Rapid City KOTA will not even discuss a waiver with the consumer no matter what their specific situations is). Additionally, satellite TV providers should be able to compete directly with the cable companies and it should not be dependent on whether they provide local stations or not. Forcing satellite companies to host local stations is not the answer either, however, it could be provided as an option for the consumer. The consumer, not the TV stations, should make the decision on they want to watch. For my particular situation, I live in a rural area of the Black Hills with no access to cable TV. Years ago, I spent a lot of money for my satellite TV system only to have the rules change and lose my satellite access to network stations. I was basically than forced to watch local TV with very poor quality video. First, I shouldn't be limited to watching local national TV affiliates, and second, I should be able to view programming with the highest quality video available.